

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FMC-01 AGR-05

AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /033 W

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R 241420Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2658

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LENINGRAD 1559

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: BAGB, EGEN, ETRN, UR

SUBJ: PORT CONDITIONS IN LENINGRAD

REF: A. LENINGRAD 1142, B. LENINGRAD 1281, C. LENINGRAD 1334

1. RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT PORT CONGESTION PROBLEM NOTED HERE EARLIER THIS YEAR NOW SEEMS TO HAVE CLEARED. CAPTAIN OF SS THOMAS JEFFERSON (CARRYING 12,054 GROSS TONS GENERAL CARGO) WHO REGISTERED HIS PAPERS AT CONSULATE GENERAL ON SEPT 24, SAID HIS SHIP ARRIVED LENINGRAD 0642 HOURS SEPT 22 AND BEGAN DISCHARGING CARGO 0830 SAME DAY. CAPTAIN STATED THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO WAITING PERIOD TO DOCK AND HE EXPECTS DEPART LENINGRAD SEPT 28. ACCORDING CAPTAIN, THERE ARE NO OTHER U.S. VESSELS WAITING IN THE PORT AND THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF DELAY AT PORT.

2. THIS CONFIRMS OBSERVATION OF CAPTAIN ZAPATA PATRIOT TO CONGEN OFFICER DURING LUNCH WITH OFFICIALS OF MAIN MARITIME AGENCY (INFLOT) AUGUST 24, TO EFFECT THAT EARLIER BACKLOGGING OF SHIPS, PARTICULARLY GRAIN SHIPS, APPEARED TO HAVE CLEARED. ZAPATA PATRIOT, WHICH HAD GRAIN SHIPMENT, ENTERED PORT AT THAT TIME WITH DELAY OF ONLY EIGHT HOURS WHICH CAPTAIN CONTRIBUTED TO FOG CONDITIONS, COMPARED TO DELAY OF 18 DAYS BEFORE VESSEL ENTERED CHANNEL ON LAST TRIP IN EARLY JULY, 1976.

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